

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for selecting a statistical tool or technique, comprising:

a hierarchical decision logic flowdown structure in which a user makes progressive data type selections;

selection expansions offered to the user based on the data type  
5 selections; and

a statistical software tool that is opened based on the data type selections.

2. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system comprises an internet-based system.

10 3. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system comprises a stand-alone system.

4. A system as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a means for the user to enter input data into the statistical software tool.

15 5. A system as claimed in claim 4 wherein the means for entering input data comprises a user input peripheral.

6. A system as claimed in claim 4 further comprising an analysis of frequently encountered technical problems encountered in various environments.

20 7. A system as claimed in claim 6 further comprising statistical based solutions based on the progressive data type selections, the input data and the analysis.

8. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the data type selections comprise univariate, multivariate and data mining data type selections.

9. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the hierarchical decision logic flowdown structure continues with progressive data type selections and

selection expansions until sufficient data is gathered to properly select the statistical tool or technique.

10. A method for selecting a statistical tool or technique for addressing a problem of the user, comprising the steps of:

5            providing a computer network for communicating digital data between at least two locations;

             first conveying, using the computer network, data selections and input data to request a statistical tool or technique, the data selections and input data originating at a first location and directed to a second location;

10           processing, at the second location, the data selections and input data; and

             second conveying, in response to the data selections and the input data, a response that includes the recommended statistical tool or technique, said response originating at the second location and directed to the first  
15           location.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the data selections comprise progressive data type selections in a hierarchical decision logic flowdown structure, with selection expansions offered to the user based on the data type selections made at each selection level.

20           12. A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the step of processing comprises the step of using JAVA web-based language that can be linked to any html based software.

             13. A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the step of second conveying comprises the step of providing the user with an analysis and interpretation  
25           option for the problem.

14. A method of identifying a statistical tool or technique to address a user problem, comprising the steps of:

a. under control of a client system,

displaying information identifying selections;

in response to selections made, displaying additional selectable information in a flowdown sequence;

5 b. under control of a web browser system,

receiving the selectable information and receiving user input data; and

providing a correct statistical tool for the client by linking statistical methodology with the problem to be solved, based on the selected information and the user input data.

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15. A method as claimed in claim 14 wherein the steps of displaying and receiving comprise the step of using a JAVA based, flowdown-structured, statistical wizard to identify the statistical tool or technique.

16. A method as claimed in claim 14 wherein the steps of displaying and receiving are carried out on a digital communication network.

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17. A method as claimed in claim 14 wherein the steps of displaying and receiving further comprise the step of utilizing a web browser.

18. A method as claimed in claim 14 wherein the web browser system is capable of providing links to statistical tools software.

19. A method as claimed in claim 14 wherein the client system comprises at least one user computer capable of transmitting selections relating to a problem that is to be solved using statistical applications.

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20. A method as claimed in claim 14 wherein the client system comprises at least one computer capable of transmitting requests for statistical tools over a

digital communication network and receiving information for enabling identification of a software tool.